

May 20, 1975

Governors people were talking about and that we were talking about in our attempt to reach some kind of a compromise. When the costs were applied to this it came to a difference of between \$5 million and \$5 1/2 million. In other words, there was half a million dollars difference. Now I'm not suggesting that isn't a lot of money, but it's not a lot of money when you are just estimating costs. No one will know for sure until the architects have actually designed the facility and bids are let what the costs will be. That is why the way we are handling 417 is alright, because we are only putting about \$700,000 into all of this this year. Next year the Appropriations Committee will be able to tell what the architects have come up with. You will be able to know what kind of bids are to be let. You'll know what kind of program we have to follow from here on out. That's why fiscally this plan is sound. Now as far as operational costs, let it be clearly stated once again that we base this proposal on the Curtis-Davis HDR Report. There never was, and there is not now, any suggestion that we could run or operate two facilities for the price of one. That was not stated on this floor. That was not stated at the time of the Curtis-Davis Report. I never said it. No one promoting LB 417 as amended said it. I don't know where the Governor got that idea. So the Governor once again has come up with an erroneous, fallacious argument as far as supporting his veto. Then I'm going to close on this note that regardless of what you talk, you can talk, and talk, and talk but the fact is we are dealing not with brick and mortar, we are dealing with programs, and corrections, and reformation. We are dealing with human beings. If you're going to put this everlasting price tag and just keep your eye on the almighty dollar and not think of people, those of you who have been out to visit that reformatory know what it's like to try to put across any kind of program in that place. Any day, any minute, any hour that we keep that place open, beyond what it ought to be open, I think comes back to haunt us and will come back to haunt us for years. This is our third attempt to try to get the job done. Let us not have failure. The only way, as the Governor stated in his veto message, the only way you can risk damage to the ongoing and progressive penal reform program in Nebraska is to sit on your hands and not vote to override this veto. The only way you can continue the program is to override the veto.

PRESIDENT: The question is, shall LB 417 . . . Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, now hear this, I have an amendment from the Governor that would go on LB 609 that you now have a copy of that is the alternative that this penal reform can proceed and proceed as rapidly as we want it to proceed. There will be on delay when this Legislature sustains the Governors veto. Furthermore, the Governor has told me personally, and told other members of this Legislature personally, that he will immediately deliver LB 609 to this Legislature so that the amendment that you have on your desk can be attached, and that it will be immediately sent back to the Governor. The